

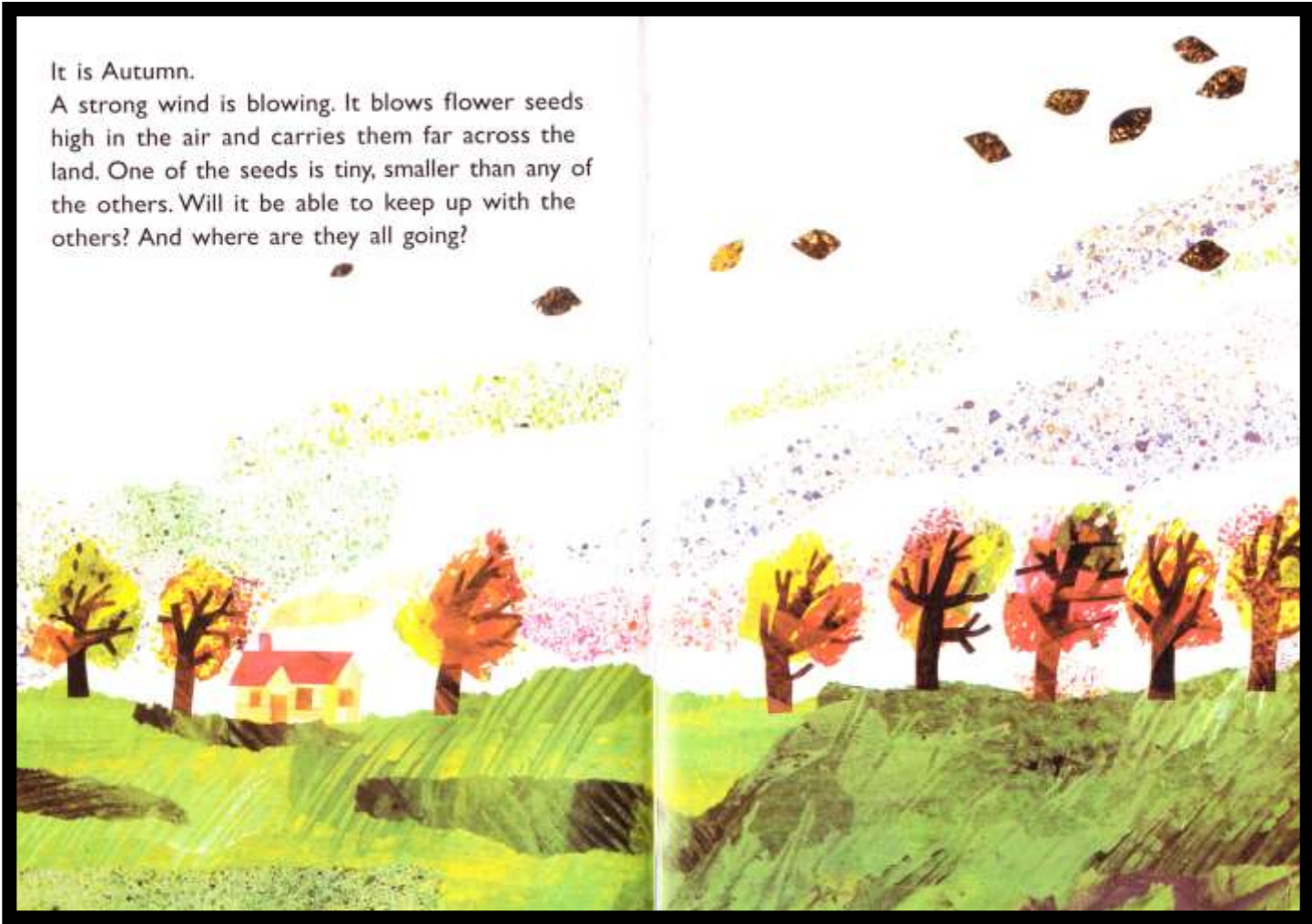
ERIC CARLE

The Tiny Seed



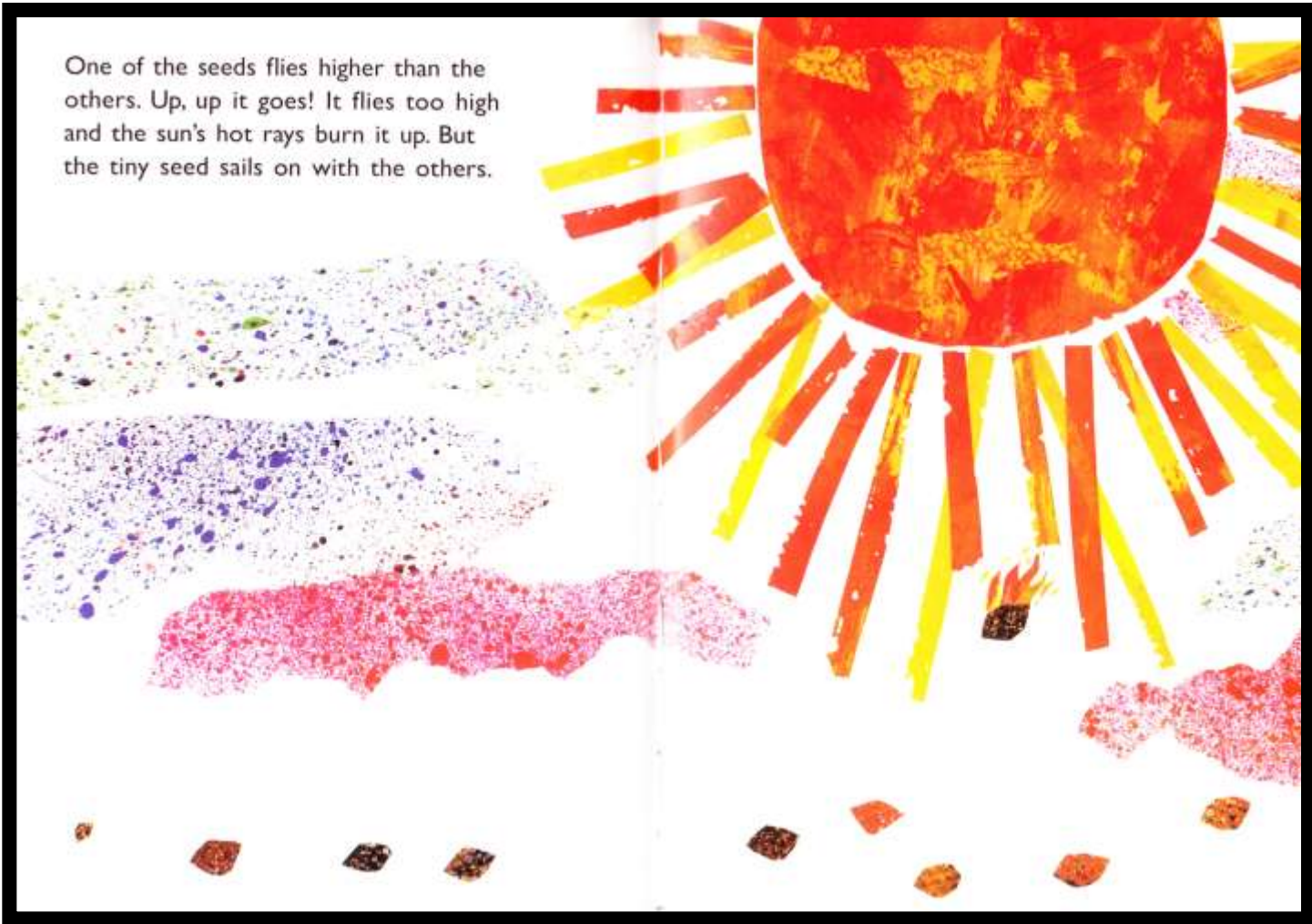
It is Autumn.

A strong wind is blowing. It blows flower seeds high in the air and carries them far across the land. One of the seeds is tiny, smaller than any of the others. Will it be able to keep up with the others? And where are they all going?



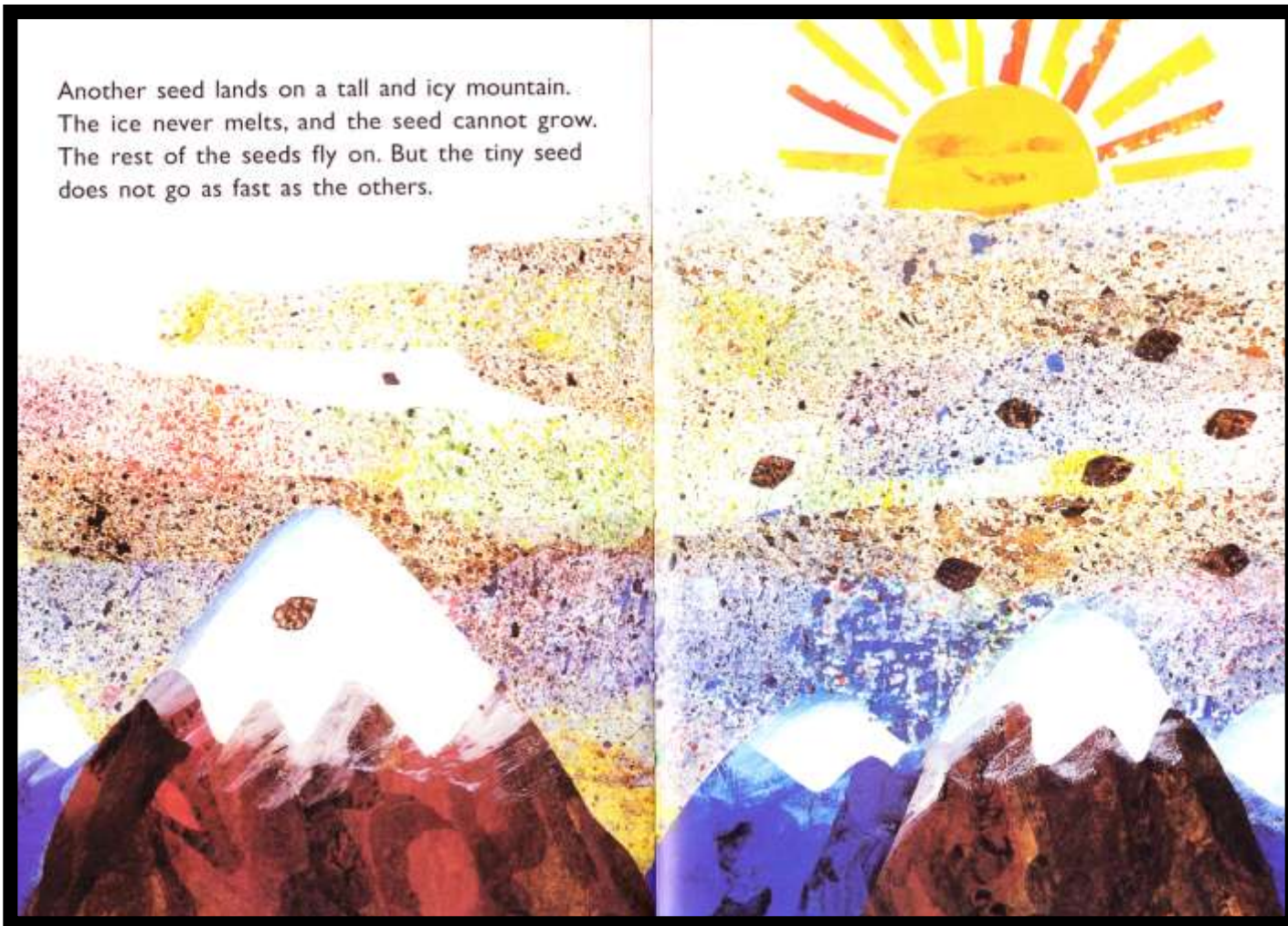
It is **Autumn**. A strong wind is blowing. It blows seeds across the land.

One of the seeds flies higher than the others. Up, up it goes! It flies too high and the sun's hot rays burn it up. But the tiny seed sails on with the others.

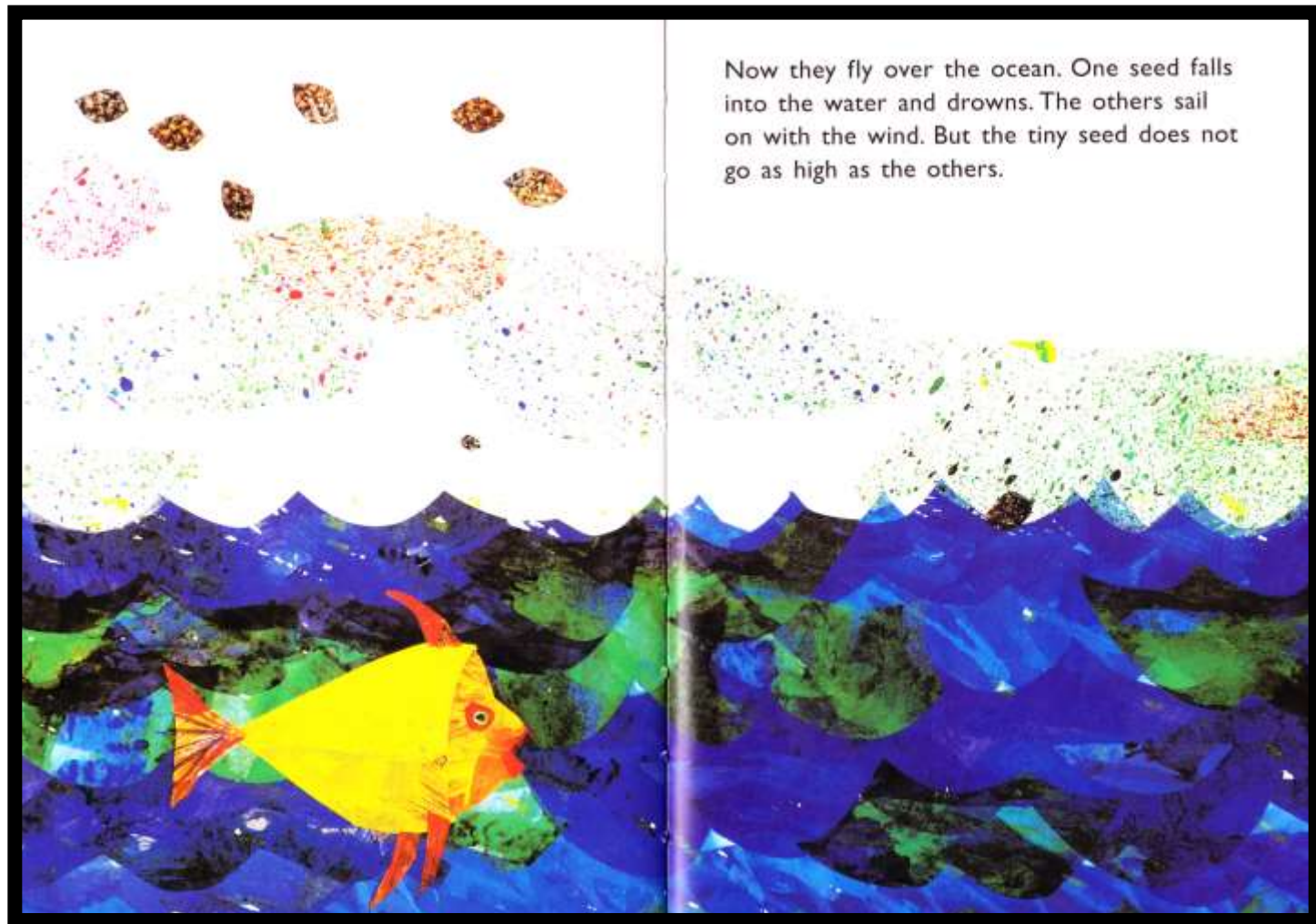


One of the seeds blows up near the **hot** sun. The seed does not grow.

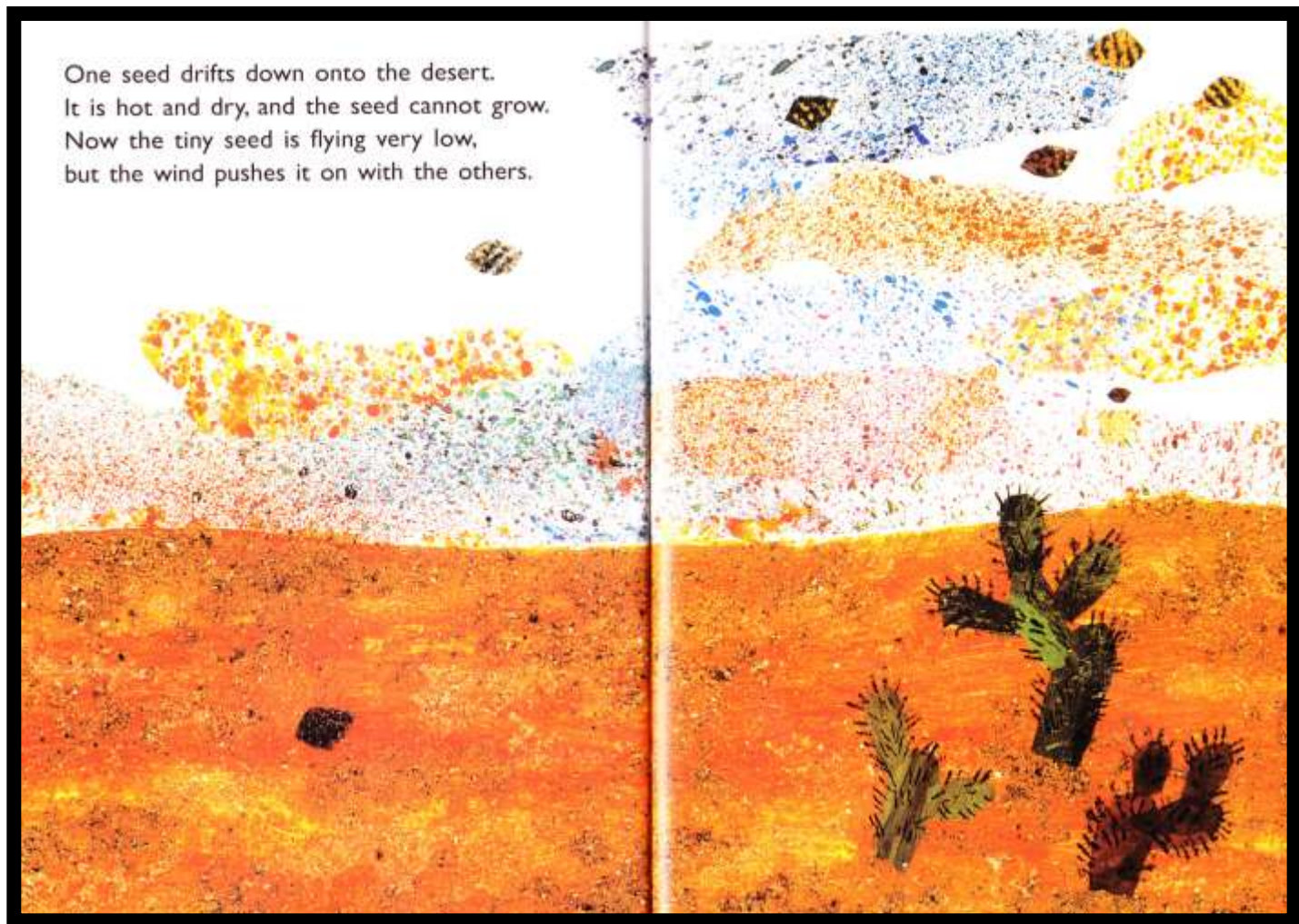
Another seed lands on a tall and icy mountain.
The ice never melts, and the seed cannot grow.
The rest of the seeds fly on. But the tiny seed
does not go as fast as the others.



One seed lands on a mountain in
the **cold** snow. The seed does not
grow.

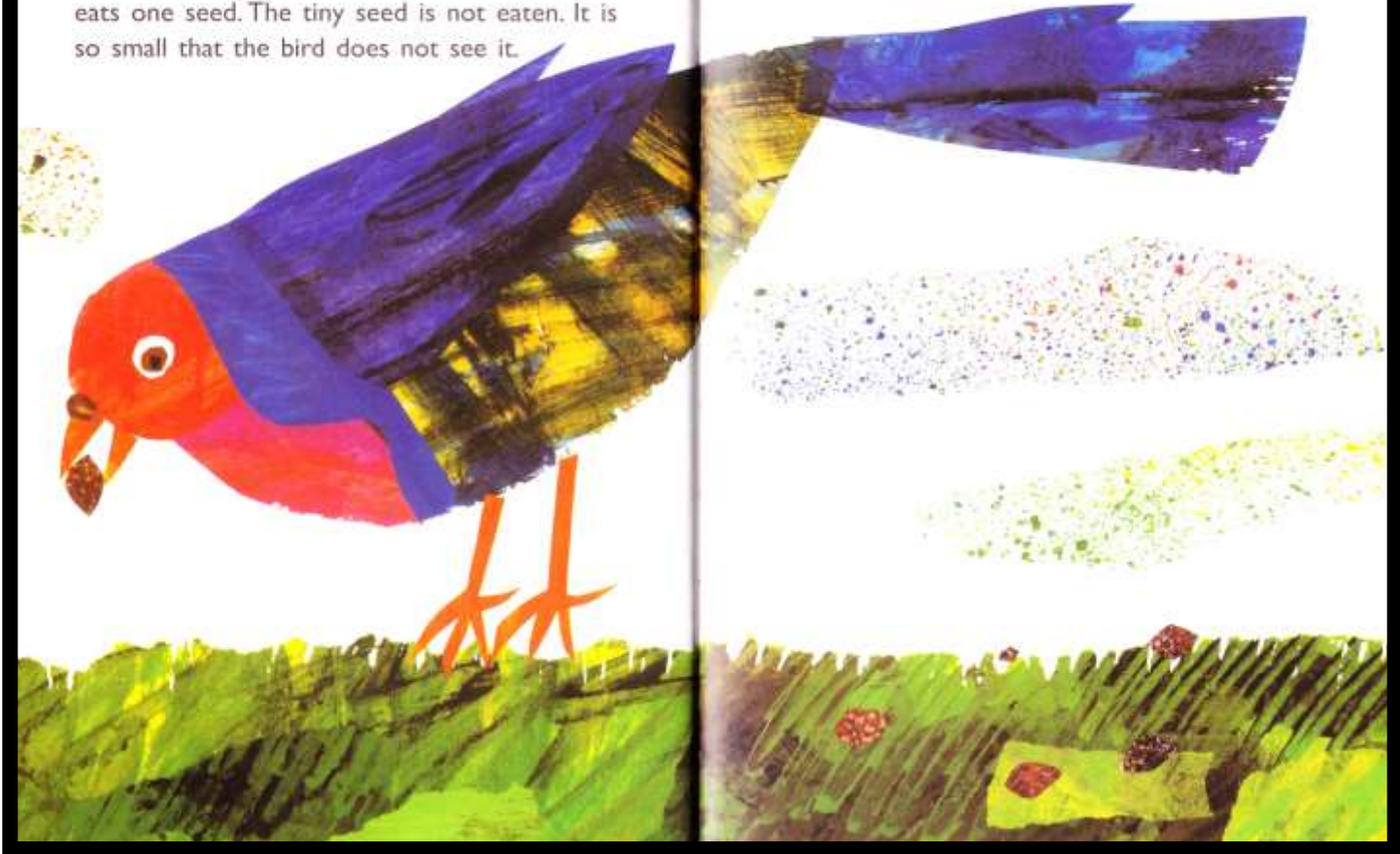


One of the seeds lands in the **deep** sea. The seed does not grow.

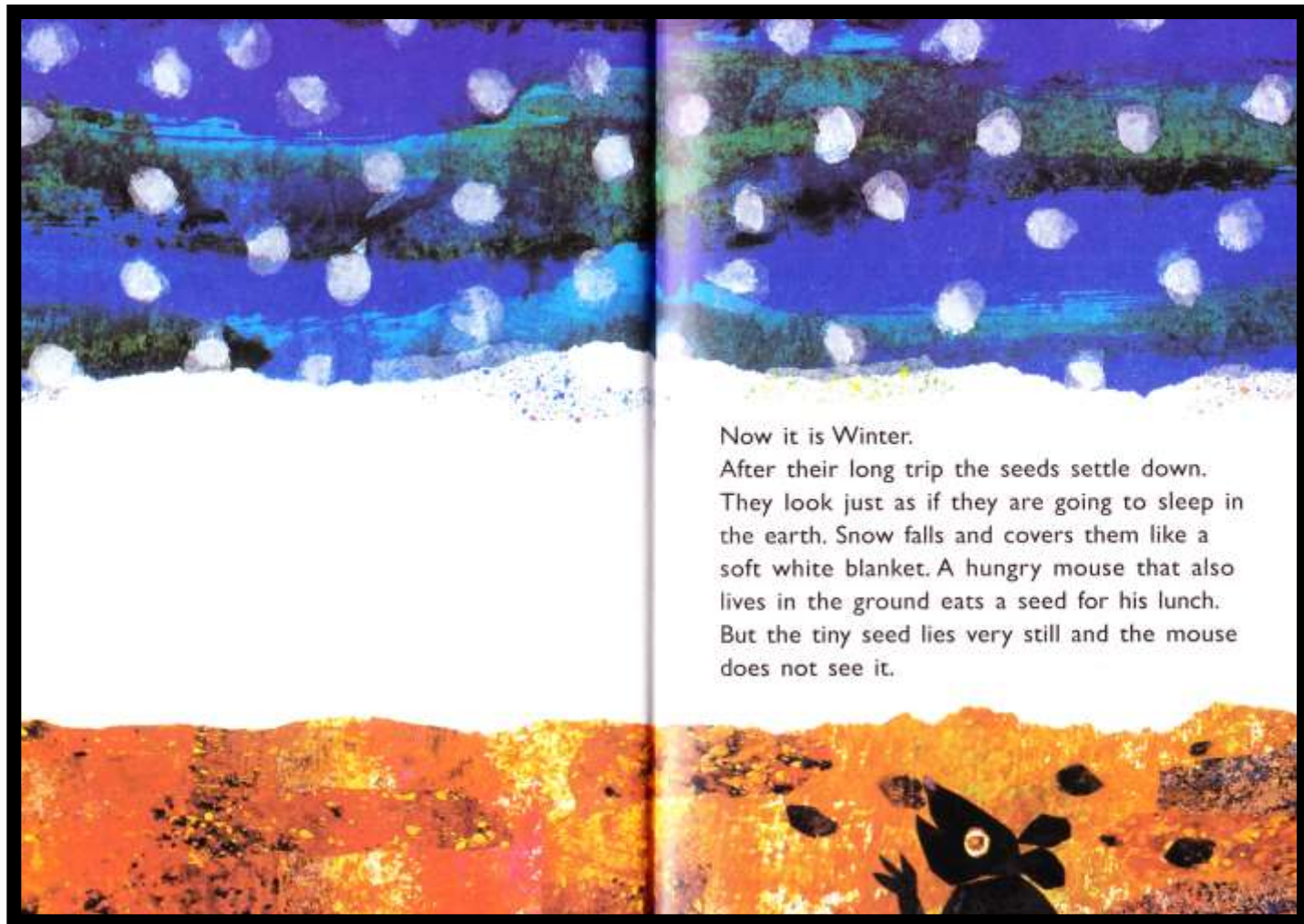


One seed lands in the **sandy** desert. The seed does not grow.

Finally the wind stops and the seeds fall gently down on the ground. A bird comes by and eats one seed. The tiny seed is not eaten. It is so small that the bird does not see it.



One of the seeds gets eaten by a **colourful** bird. The seed does not grow.



It is **Winter**. The tiny seed lands on the ground and gets covered by snow.

Now it is Spring.

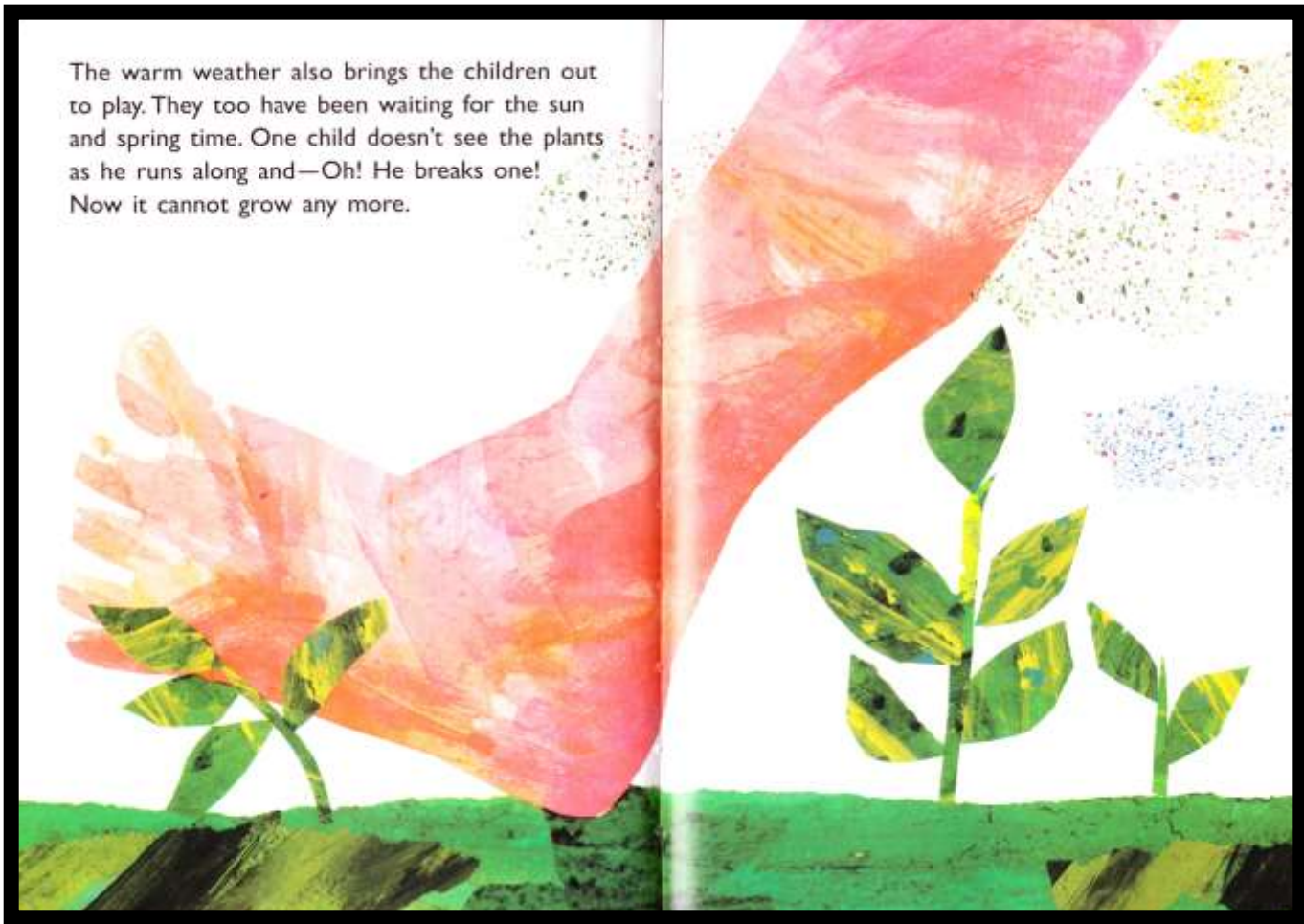
After a few months the snow has melted. It is really spring! Birds fly by. The sun shines. Rain falls. The seeds grow so round and full they start to burst open a little. Now they are not seeds any more. They are plants. First they send roots down into the earth. Then their little stems and leaves begin to grow up toward the sun and air. There is another plant that grows much faster than the new little plants. It is a big fat weed. And it takes all the sunlight and the rain away from one of the small new plants. And that little plant dies.

The tiny seed hasn't begun to grow yet. It will be too late! Hurry! But finally it too starts to grow into a plant.



It is **Spring**. The sun shines. The Rain falls. The seeds begin to grow.

The warm weather also brings the children out to play. They too have been waiting for the sun and spring time. One child doesn't see the plants as he runs along and—Oh! He breaks one! Now it cannot grow any more.



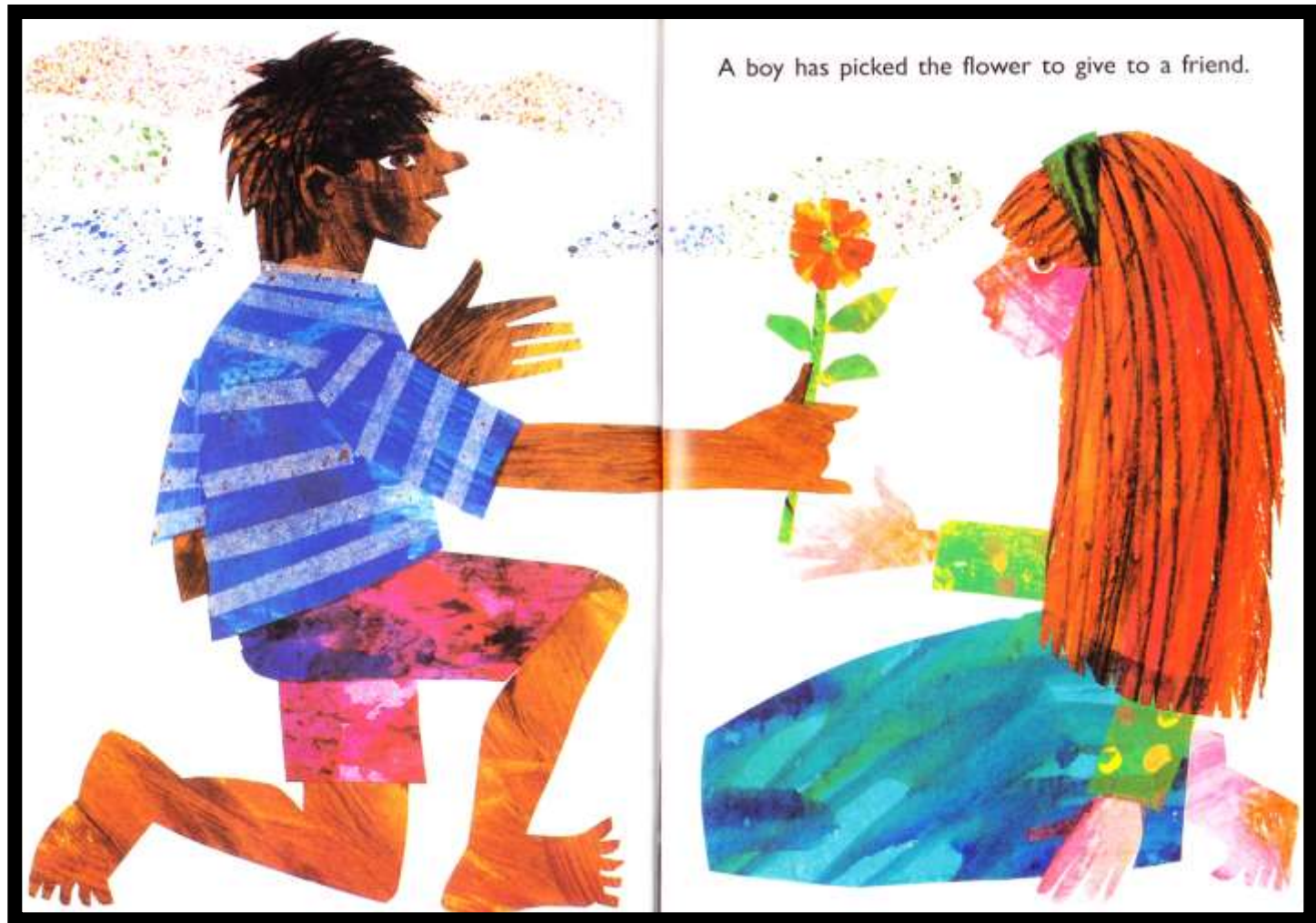
The children come out to play. One child steps on a plant. The plant does not grow anymore.

The tiny plant that grew from the tiny seed is growing fast, but its neighbor grows even faster. Before the tiny plant has three leaves the other plant has seven! And look! A bud! And now even a flower!

But what is happening? First there are footsteps. Then a shadow looms over them. Then a hand reaches down and breaks off the flower.



Someone picks a flower.



The boy gives the flower to a friend. The plant does not grow anymore.

It is Summer.

Now the tiny plant from the tiny seed is all alone. It grows on and on. It doesn't stop. The sun shines on it and the rain waters it. It has many leaves. It grows taller and taller. It is taller than the people. It is taller than the trees. It is taller than the houses. And now a flower grows on it. People come from far and near to look at this flower. It is the tallest flower they have ever seen. It is a giant flower.

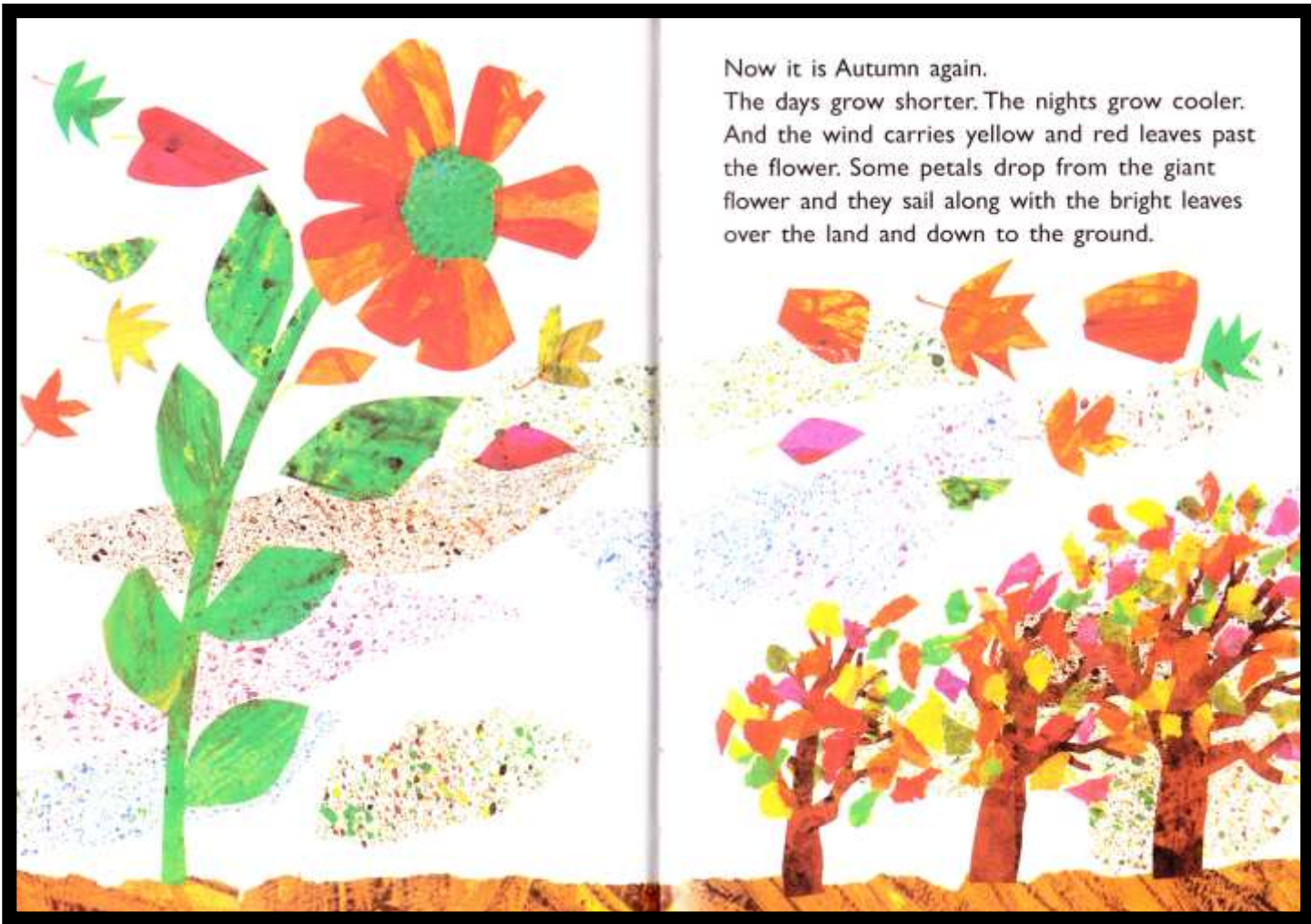


It is **Summer**. The tiny seed is all alone. It grows into a big flower.

All summer long the birds and bees and butterflies
come visiting. They have never seen such a big and
beautiful flower.



The birds and the bees come and
visit the flower.



Now it is Autumn again.
The days grow shorter. The nights grow cooler.
And the wind carries yellow and red leaves past
the flower. Some petals drop from the giant
flower and they sail along with the bright leaves
over the land and down to the ground.

It is **Autumn**. A strong wind
blows.

The wind blows harder. The flower has lost almost all of its petals. It sways and bends away from the wind. But the wind grows stronger and shakes the flower. Once more the wind shakes the flower, and this time the flower's seed pod opens. Out come many tiny seeds that quickly sail far away on the wind.



The wind shakes the flower's seed pod. It opens and **tiny** seeds blow across the land.